member resources

Your Voice, Your AIA

The American Institute of Architects
Thanks for making a difference.

For more than 150 years, members of the American Institute of Architects have worked with each other and their communities to create valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. Your membership, along with 86,000 others, enables the AIA to speak as the voice of the design profession—your voice—and to play such a vital, dynamic role in architecture today.

“The AIA has, without a doubt, the deepest set of resources, of knowledge resources, in architecture that you can find anywhere in the world. It has this because there are more than 86,000 members who are determined to develop the resources day by day…. The AIA is my promise to myself to be a better architect tomorrow than I was today.” —LOUIS B. SMITH JR., AIA, MEMBER SINCE 1985

You, our members, tell us what you need and want from your AIA. This guide provides an easy reference to those benefits and resources. We hope it helps you get the full value from your AIA membership so you have the support to do what you do best—create great architecture.

NOTE: Due to pending changes in our national AIA Web site during the production of this guide, some Web addresses may be subject to change. If you have difficulty visiting a particular AIA Web page, search by program name in the search engine at the top of the AIA.org home page.

www.aia.org  800-242-3837
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Now More than Ever
A Message from the President

Dear Fellow AIA Member,

As I write this, one of our industry’s leading economic indicators, the AIA Architecture Billings Index, continues to trend south. In times like these, we need to keep our eyes on the long term: business cycles inevitably have an up side. But whether the economy is cycling up or down, behind each of us stand the collective resources of a global network that’s more than 86,000 members strong.

As the pages that follow make clear, AIA members have access, often just a click away, to a vast and growing pool of resources, many of which are specifically tailored to help us compete in today’s challenging market.

However, membership is more than easy access. It’s more than the most up-to-the-minute information about such topics as sustainability and integrated project delivery. Membership gives each of us an opportunity to shape many of these resources in ways that reflect our needs.

How? By joining, for example, the AIA member communities, which customize your membership, or through hands-on participation in the AIA advocacy program, which helps members take a leadership role in shaping the local, state, and federal regulatory environment in which we practice.

These are just a few of the ways that membership allows us to express our commitment to excellence and livability in our communities. Take your time to become better acquainted with the rich inventory of AIA programs and services that appear in this guide. Go to www.aia.org to learn more. While you’re there, look into how you can make the best use of these resources by becoming engaged with your peers in whatever ways suit your needs.

For more than 150 years, through good times and rough, the AIA has been there, member serving member, to advance our profession’s reputation. Whoever our neighbors are in this vibrant professional community—licensed members, associates, international associates, allied individual members, Cornerstone Partners—now, more than ever, AIA membership is a smart investment in a better future for our profession and all those we serve.

Welcome to the AIA.

MARVIN J. MALECHA, FAIA
2009 President
Integrated Project Delivery
Leveraging resources for projects that are on time and on budget

Integrated project delivery (IPD) leverages early contributions of knowledge and expertise through the use of new technologies, particularly building information modeling (BIM), that enable architects to better realize their highest potential as designers and collaborators while expanding the value they provide throughout the project life cycle.

Diversity
Mirroring the society we serve

The diversity of the architecture profession—the mix of race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, physical ability, sexual orientation, age, practice, geography, programs, and organizations—is one of the AIA’s three top strategic initiatives because nothing less than the strongest, most inclusive profession can meet the unprecedented challenges of the future. AIA diversity programs strengthen the architecture profession and, consequently, improve the quality of life in our communities.

“I think most of us have aspirations that are larger than life, and collectively, working together, you can accomplish much more than if you were to try to attempt this singularly.” — PATRICK ONISHI, AIA, MEMBER SINCE 1979
The Integrated Project Delivery Guide (jointly developed by the AIA Contract Documents Committee and the AIA California Council) identifies the characteristics of IPD and provides information on how to use IPD methods to enhance design, construction, and operations.

**Sustainability**

Leading the sustainable evolution

AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge, and tools to create better green design and are committed to reducing energy consumption in the built environment.

**AIA Sustainability Resource Page**

The page features resources for both practitioners and clients to highlight the AIA’s sustainability position statements and initiatives, including:

- **50to50**: A set of 50 best practices to help architects achieve high-performance building design and fossil-fuel reduction

**Sustainable Design Continuing Education**

www.aia.org/education

Sustainable design is now a mandatory continuing education requirement for AIA membership.

**21st Century Workplace Project**

www.aia.org/about/AIAS076756

This initiative, conceived as part of the AIA 150th anniversary, intends to make renovation of the 35-year-old AIA national headquarters a sustainable-design demonstration project for the public and architecture professionals alike.

- **Sustainability 2030 Toolkit**: A guide to achieving carbon neutrality in the built environment through advocacy, design, and community
- **Sustainable Design Policy Center**: A compilation of information delineating those states with high-performance building legislation, executive orders, tax incentives, and additional public-policy resources related to high-performance building
- **Walk the Walk**: Resources from the AIA national public-awareness campaign, including the Greenstep Webisode series
You’ll also find links to the AIA member groups and communities, which enable members to more closely connect with colleagues based on professional interest or career stage. These include the knowledge communities, Young Architects Forum, National Associates Committee, and College of Fellows.

**AIA Membership Designations**
Show your pride of membership
www.aia.org/press/kit/background/AIAP07387

The AIA offers several membership designations based on licensure status and other criteria. These abbreviations, which AIA members (except for Allied members) may show after their names, indicate membership to clients, the public, and other industry professionals:

- **AIA:** U.S.-licensed architects
- **FAIA:** Members elected to the AIA College of Fellows
- **Assoc. AIA:** Unlicensed to practice architecture but meeting other professional criteria

**Information Central**
Have a question about the AIA, your membership, or our programs and services?
http://informationcentral.aia.org
800-242-3837

Visit us online and get accurate responses to questions, either through our interactive site or the Knowledge Base FAQ. You can also track any requests you submit through Information Central Online.

**AIA Members Center**
Links to popular member services, resources, and benefits—in one place
www.aia.org/members

Log in and find many of the most-requested tools and resources for AIA members, including the Member Resource Guide, Guidelines for Pro Bono Activities, governance documents, directories, discount offers, and more.

If you have any difficulty logging in, contact AIA Information Central at InfoCentral@aia.org or 800-242-3837.
“Most people are familiar with the AIA…. But I do tell them that it is the organization that represents the voice of the community and that we prescribe to a particular code of ethics, and it has a tremendous amount of resources available for its membership.”

— STACY BOURNE, AIA, MEMBER SINCE 1994

- **Hon. AIA or Hon. FAIA**: Honorary members
- **Intl. Assoc. AIA**: Those with an architecture license or equivalent from a licensing authority outside the United States
- **Allied**: Other building- or design-related professionals

Emeritus members (architect or associate members in good standing for at least 15 successive years who meet certain age and/or retirement criteria) may continue using the designation they had prior to approval of their application for Emeritus status.

### AIA Components—Local, State, and National

**Local**

Local components sponsor a wide range of activities, including educational conferences, community service projects, postdisaster and urban-design workshops, Architect Registration Exam® prep classes, award programs, and community awareness campaigns.

**State**

State components offer educational and networking opportunities and play an integral advocacy role before state legislatures and regulatory agencies on architecture-related issues. They also link local components into a more supportive statewide network.

**National**

AIA National provides tools and resources to help you build your career or practice while also uniting local and state members in the common causes of advocacy, community, and knowledge. National member groups such as knowledge communities, the College of Fellows, the Young Architects Forum, and the National Associates Committee provide additional networking, education, and service opportunities.

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**Honorary members**

**Intl. Assoc. AIA**: Those with an architecture license or equivalent from a licensing authority outside the United States

**Allied**: Other building- or design-related professionals

Emeritus members (architect or associate members in good standing for at least 15 successive years who meet certain age and/or retirement criteria) may continue using the designation they had prior to approval of their application for Emeritus status.
for your practice

Resources, tools, and savings to support your practice and career
Publications

AIArchitect
The news of America’s community of architects
http://info.aia.org/aiaarchitect

The Institute’s flagship publication each week brings you the latest news of the profession, business and practice tips, and design trends. AIArchitect’s podcast connections, blog, and weekly poll also connect you with fellow professionals and ensure that your voice will be heard.

Architectural Record
The magazine of the AIA
www.archrecord.com

You receive this award-winning monthly magazine as part of your AIA membership. Architectural Record delivers insightful news and commentary on architecture and interior design, practice advice, continuing education courses, and much more.

AIA Online Publications
www.aia.org/about/publications

In addition to AIArchitect, the AIA publishes more than a dozen special-interest newsletters and journals online. Check out the directory page for current links and to manage your subscriptions online.

Web Resources

AIA.org
Enhance your professional life
www.aia.org

The core AIA Web site is your searchable, interactive resource for the practical knowledge that can enhance your career and practice. It’s a venue for your expertise—inviting your voice, your insights. And it’s an online showcase for the work that you, our members, create.
AIA News Feeds
The latest AIA information, on your RSS reader
www.aia.org/about/publications
Available RSS feed subjects include AIArchitect articles, government advocacy, sustainable design, continuing education, news releases, AIA podcasts, blogs, and more.

AIA PodNet
Listen and learn
http://info.aia.org/aia/AIAPodNet.cfm
The AIA has captured the thoughts of leaders in the profession on subjects ranging from sustainable design to feng shui, from entering the profession to AIA Fellowship, from ergonomics to economics. Choose single podcasts or subscribe through iTunes.

AIA YouTube Channel
Watch, Learn, Discuss.
www.youtube.com/AIANational
Watch AIA members and leaders speak about public policy, sustainable design, livable communities, AIA membership, and more.

Architect’s Knowledge Resource
www.aia.org/akr
AKR (formerly known as SOLOS) enables members to contribute high-quality, authoritative content such as white papers, best practices, research, product reviews, image banks, trends, and more. It’s your place to find solutions, share your expertise, and connect with colleagues.

Best Practices
www.aia.org/practicing/bestpractices
Defined as “knowledge gained from experience and immediately applicable to the task at hand,” AIA Best Practices represent the collective wisdom and practical knowledge of AIA members, conveniently organized into chapters modeled on The Architect’s Handbook of Professional Practice.

Resource Pages
www.aia.org/practicing
Special-interest content gathered for easy access:

- **Navigating the Economy**
  Practical resources to help architects in challenging economic times, including RFQ postings

- **Small Firms**
  Your go-to place for specialized practice management tools

- **Sustainability**
  Knowledge and tools for better green design and reduced energy consumption

- **Leadership**
  Supporting all AIA leaders

- **Components**
  A central resource for AIA component leaders, staff, and volunteers

New Product Marketplace
http://info.aia.org/aia/newproductmarketplace.cfm
This directory helps to meet architects’ growing need for the latest building product information.
AIA Speakers Registry
Find qualified presenters for events and education programs
http://speakers.aia.org

The registry provides a searchable listing of knowledgeable trainers, presenters, and facilitators on dozens of popular topics, including land use, sustainability, green architecture, affordable housing, public health, and many more. Architecture professionals can also post free profiles to establish their own availability as presenters.

Social Networking Groups
Expand your professional connections instantly
www.aia.org/practicing/groups

Accelerate your career and business by connecting with thousands of your colleagues through the AIA member-only group on LinkedIn and other networking sites where you can easily share information, ideas, and referrals 24/7.

Practice Management

AIA Contract Documents®
The Industry Standard
www.aia.org/contractdocs

For nearly 120 years, AIA Contract Documents have set the standard for design and construction contracts—becoming the most trusted standard-form contract documents in the industry. Now we’ve made them even better, with additions including an industry-leading Building Information Modeling (BIM) Protocol Exhibit (get a free sample at www.aiacontractdocuments.org) and new integrated project delivery and design-build agreements. AIA members get discounts on AIA Contract Documents software licenses. See the Web site to order the software online, contact a distributor near you, or order individual paper documents on demand.

Architect Finder
Bringing prospective clients to you
http://architectfinder.aia.org

AIA Architect Finder has been revamped to allow members—and members only—to showcase core contact information and more. Supply profiles of your firm, specify your areas of expertise, and upload portfolios of your projects. This is consistently among the top-visited areas on the AIA.org site, so put your best facts forward!

Career Center
Search smarter, not harder
http://careercenter.aia.org

AIA Career Center is the profession’s premier online recruitment resource. Here, employers and recruiters can target their efforts to find the most qualified talent and reach the right candidates quickly and easily. Job seekers can showcase their skills and experience to prospective employers to find the best job opportunities and manage their applications. Both recruiting and job-seeker services offer AIA member-only discounts.
AIA Pro Bono Guidelines
Support for architects in service to society
www.aia.org/members

The AIA encourages members, their firms, and state and local components to address the needs of underserved sectors of our society through pro bono services. These guidelines can help you manage your pro bono services.

AIA Bookstore
Your source for all things architecture
www.aia.org/store

The AIA Bookstore offers more than 2,000 books, DVDs, and gift items—each specially selected for design professionals. Members receive a 10-percent discount on all purchases and can order either online, in person (at the AIA national headquarters), or by phone (800-242-3837, option #4).

The AIA Trust
For every risk you take
www.TheAIATrust.com

The AIA Trust insurance and financial programs offer many ways to protect yourself, your firm, and your family:

- AIA-commended professional liability insurance
- Term life insurance, including 10- and 20-year plans and firm-employee plans
- Business owners’ coverage for general liability, property and casualty, workers comp, valuable documents, business auto, umbrella, and related coverage
- Disability insurance for both personal and business overhead coverage plus a firm-employee plan
- Dental insurance, health-care discounts, and a medical benefits center to help members find individual or small-group health insurance
- Automobile, homeowner, and tenant insurance, with special member discounts
- Retirement plans, including all varieties of 401(k)s, profit-sharing, and more
- Medicare supplement and long-term care insurance
- Identify theft protection and a legal information service

AIA Advantage
Save money while helping AIA education programs
www.aia.org/about/memberservices

AIA members are eligible for savings on products and services from leading companies for your business and home.

Bank of America
You don’t need another credit card; you need a better one. The AIA PlatinumPlus® MasterCard® with WorldPoints® is the best rewards card available today with no annual fee. Call Bank of America at 866-438-6262 and use priority code F6ZU or click on the Bank of America links at www.aia.org/about/memberservices.

Dell™
AIA members enjoy incredible savings on technology from Dell. Call 877-571-3355 and mention account code AIA or go to www.dell.com/AIA and enter account code AIA and access key AIADELL99 (case-sensitive).
“My [AIA] membership has enhanced my design skills and capabilities immensely; through my interaction with other leading professionals around the country, I’ve been able to understand best practices that they’ve applied to projects that help me apply better design practice on the projects that I undertake.”

FedEx
FedEx is your one-stop shop for transportation, e-commerce, and business services. Visit www.fedex.com/aia and enter pass code ZRRJOK13 to enroll in this savings program.

HERTZ
Use your Hertz discount CDP#11356 whenever you rent a car to save up to 15 percent. Enroll in Hertz #1 Club Gold, where the first year’s membership fee is waived for AIA members. For details or to sign up, call 800-654-2200 or click on the Hertz links at www.aia.org/about/memberservices.

MASTERSPEC
AIA members get a discount on MASTERSPEC licenses and have access to free continuing education opportunities exclusively for MASTERSPEC licensees. Call 800-424-5080 or visit www.arcomnet.com/masterspec.

UPS
UPS offers AIA members up to 30 percent off an expanded portfolio of air and international Express shipping services. For details or to sign up, call 800-325-7000 or visit www.savewithups.com/aia.

State of the Profession

Market Research
The economic factors that shape the business of architecture
www.aia.org/practicing/economics

The AIA Economics and Market Research group’s reports on firm, business, and practice trends help you to better manage your career or business while also providing solid evidence—to economists, researchers, consultants, government agencies, Wall Street analysts, and the news media—of the significant role that architects play in the economy.
The AIA Compensation Report
Compare your compensation—or that of your firm—with others regionally and nationally. Updated and published every three years, the latest full report or any of nine regional reports is available at www.aia.org/store.

The Business of Architecture:
The AIA Firm Survey
Updated every three years, the firm survey provides valuable information on the viability of markets, the profitability of architectural services, benchmark financial performance, and more. Contact Information Central at http://informationcentral.aia.org or 800-242-3837 to receive your copy.

The AIA Architecture Billings Index (ABI)
The ABI, a leading economic indicator of the design and construction industry, accurately predicts construction activity approximately 9 to 12 months in advance. Monthly survey participants can compare their firms’ experience with that of similar firms regionally and across the country; get a head start on tracking the economy and local business conditions; and better target business opportunities.

The AIA Environmental Scan
Check out the trends and emerging issues that affect architects and the profession. To learn more, click on the “Research and Reports” link at www.aia.org/practicing/economics.

The AIA Home Design Trends Survey (HDTs)
The quarterly HDTs receives extensive media coverage and underscores the importance of AIA residential architects in setting trends for the design of new homes and home improvement projects. Leaders of firms with a residential specialty can join the HDTs panel by sending an e-mail to economics@aia.org.

Continuing Education

AIA Continuing Education System (CES)
Your best resource for keeping up-to-date on state licensing requirements www.aia.org/education

AIA/CES is your most reliable source regarding how and where to acquire the continuing education to maintain and build your professional skills. You’ll find the latest news, FAQ, professional program resources, access to your transcripts, and more.

You’ll also find courses tailored to your needs and an easier, more secure way to report them and check your transcripts through an upgraded, Web-based AIA/CES online interface. To do so, see the “Sign In” box at www.aia.org/education and click the link to sign in.

Sustainable Design Education
Facts and resources about SD education requirements www.aia.org/education

In 2009, 4 hours of sustainable design (SD) education became part of the 18-hour annual continuing education requirements.
Knowledge Communities

There’s an AIA Knowledge Community for Everyone
Customize your AIA membership
www.aia.org/practicing/groups

These popular member communities help AIA members share common challenges, opportunities, or passion for given topics or building types and deepen their understanding through ongoing learning and knowledge sharing. No matter what your interests—from historic preservation to technology in architecture practice—there’s a knowledge community for you.

As a free benefit of your AIA membership, you can join as many as you wish.

To find out about the knowledge communities’ publications, blogs, conferences, continuing education events, design competitions, and other offerings, click on the links to their Web pages at www.aia.org/practicing/groups:

- Academy of Architecture for Health
- Academy of Architecture for Justice
- Committee on Architecture for Education
- Committee of Corporate Architects and Facility Management
- Committee on Design
- Committee on the Environment
- Design for Aging
- Design-Build
- Historic Resources Committee
- Housing and Custom Residential
- Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture
- Interior Architecture
- Practice Management
- Public Architects Committee
- Retail and Entertainment Committee
- Small Project Practitioners
- Technology in Architectural Practice
for emerging professionals
Fostering a seamless transition from education to practice
Internship and Licensure Support

**For Interns**
Help along the path to licensure
[www.aia.org/professionals/licensed](http://www.aia.org/professionals/licensed)

The AIA can help you succeed by providing resources, information, supplementary education, and practical support.

**IDP Support**
[www.aia.org/professionals/idp](http://www.aia.org/professionals/idp)

Establish your NCARB Council Record and download the NCARB Intern Development Program (IDP) Guidelines. In addition, you can
- Find your IDP coordinator
- Find an IDP mentor
- Get IDP supplementary education credit
- Learn about IDP Outstanding Firms
- Browse the IDP FAQ
- Sign up for a free AIA transcript

**ARE® Study Resources**
[www.aia.org/professionals/licensed](http://www.aia.org/professionals/licensed)

The current version of the NCARB-administered Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®), ARE 4.0, focuses on seven areas of study. The AIA National Convention and many AIA chapters provide test prep workshops. Our comprehensive Web site helps individuals pass the ARE with information on test prep classes; test prep materials; and components’ lending libraries, study materials, and study groups.

**For Firms**
Ensure your interns’ success with AIA support
[www.aia.org/professionals/mentors](http://www.aia.org/professionals/mentors)

The AIA provides tools, resources, and best practices to help firms, IDP coordinators, intern supervisors, and mentors create an ideal workplace for interns and help them become great architects.
IDP Outstanding Firm Awards Program
Recognizing exemplary workplaces for interns
www.aia.org/professionals/mentors

Firms employing interns that meet 12 essential criteria are eligible for an IDP Firm Award. Those that, in addition, demonstrate excellence in at least three of these categories may receive the IDP Outstanding Firm Award and garner increased recognition as a firm that nurtures and educates interns on the path to licensure.

Emerging Professional’s Companion
A resource for architecture education and experience
www.epcompanion.org

The Emerging Professional’s Companion is an online professional development tool for interns and young architects. Not only can interns earn IDP credit, but firm leaders also can find valuable resources to support the emerging professionals in their own offices. Access is free, so log in today!

ARCHcareers.org
Information and advice on the three E’s: education, experience, and examination
www.ARCHcareers.org

This Web site, jointly sponsored by the AIA and the American Institute of Architecture Students, provides up-to-date guidance on the steps of becoming an architect—from education through licensure and career planning.

AIA National Associates Committee
National Associates Committee (NAC)
Giving AIA associate members a strong voice within the Institute
www.aia.org/professionals

NAC programs, activities, and resources serve emerging professionals by promoting excellence; providing information and leadership; fostering inclusiveness; and encouraging individual, community, and professional development. As an AIA member community based on career stage, it advocates for IDP reform and general intern issues and provides a monthly e-newsletter, AIA AssociateNews; a quarterly online journal, Forward; and an NAC blog where associate members can share thoughts on a multitude of topics.

AIA Young Architects Forum
Young Architects Forum (YAF)
Networking and support for up-and-coming architects
www.aia.org/professionals

YAF, an AIA member community, fosters professional and leadership development and addresses issues of particular importance to architects who have been licensed for 10 years or less. Its bimonthly e-newsletter, YAF Connection, carries articles on leadership, mentorship, and fellowship as well as book reviews for young architects by young architects.
Awards

Education Honor Awards Program
Honoring exemplary architecture education projects or courses
www.aia.org/practicing/awards

The AIA Education Honors Awards program recognizes the achievement of outstanding teachers and promotes models of excellence for classroom, studio, community, and other educational work.

Scholarships

AIA Matching Grant Program
For scholarships offered by components and their foundations
www.aia.org/components

The Component Matching Grant Program helps provide scholarships to students in NAAB-accredited programs.

Educator-Practitioner Dialogue

Large Firm Roundtable/Deans Forum
Fostering idea sharing between large-firm leaders and the academy
www.aia.org/education

Reports documenting these important discussions on trends in the profession, education, research, and case studies are available online.

Student and Intern Programs

AIA Practice Academy
Supporting programs that prepare students for architecture practice
www.aia.org/education

The Practice Academy grants up to $10,000 to selected school and firm partnerships for rigorous pilot programs that help prepare students and interns for architecture practice.

Architecture Education Resources

Links to scholarship, mentorship, and career information
One-stop access to programs that work
www.aia.org/education

Find online links to AIA-supported resources for students from K–12 through college, including scholarships, high school internships, the ACE mentor program, and career information.
for the profession

The power of your collective voice, 86,000 members strong
Advocacy

Government Advocacy
Strengthening the voice of architects in government
www.aia.org/advocacy

The AIA represents the interests of architects before federal, state, and local governments and other policy-making bodies and organizations. This outreach—coupled with sustained member participation and active grassroots involvement in the political process—enables the AIA to have an effective voice regarding legislative, regulatory, and related issues important to AIA members.

The extensive advocacy resources on AIA.org include issue briefs, public policies, and testimony as well as assistance for members who want to write their representatives in Congress, state legislators, and mayors about key AIA issues. The Angle, the biweekly AIA government relations e-newsletter, keeps AIA members up-to-date on public-policy developments that affect their practices and the profession as a whole.

Federal Relations
www.aia.org/advocacy/federal

The AIA Government Affairs team works with the U.S. Congress, White House, and various agencies to educate government leaders and others about the profession and the AIA’s policies, positions, and objectives pertaining to community development and livability as well as the business and practice of architecture.

Of special note is Rebuild & Renew, a bold agenda to offer the skills and experience of America’s architects to help lead the way toward economic prosperity and a better, more sustainable built environment. The AIA calls on Congress and the new administration to act now—and on AIA members to support this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

ArchiPAC
www.aia.org/advocacy/archipac

The AIA’s federal political action committee contributes to candidates for Congress who are in the best position to support the Institute’s policies and strategic goals on Capitol Hill. Federal law prohibits the AIA from using members’ dues to support candidates, so ArchiPAC is funded solely by the voluntary contributions of AIA members and staff.

To learn more and to contribute, visit www.archipac.org, call 202-626-7403, or write to archipac@aia.org.

State Relations
www.aia.org/advocacy/state

AIA components and leaders across the country collaborate not only on federal-level advocacy but also on state-specific issues such as professional licensing, project delivery mechanisms, and building code adoption. The AIA State Government Network (SGN) comprises component presidents, legislative affairs chairs, contract lobbyists, and interested members who work to strengthen state-level advocacy. State components designate SGN members, about 150 of whom currently engage actively in SGN activities.
Local Relations
www.aia.org/advocacy/local

The AIA Local Relations team helps local components to manage their legislative, regulatory, and legal efforts more effectively—focusing on issues pertaining to green building and sustainable design, government procurement of architectural services, permitting and zoning issues, education, and other local matters important to architects. Several programs and activities enhance the local advocacy effort:

- **The Local Government Network**, a resource network to support local components’ government advocacy efforts
- **Outreach and partnerships** with the National Association of Counties, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and other relevant stakeholders
- **Development of resources** for local components, including issue briefs and studies

AIA Center for Communities by Design
www.aia.org/about/initiatives

There’s a reason you became an architect. It wasn’t just about buildings. It was about people, about making communities more livable. The AIA Center for Communities by Design welcomes involvement by members who are committed to healthy, safe, and sustainable communities. To join this effort, write to communitiesbydesign@aia.org.

Design Assistance Teams

The center’s programs include the Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT), which helps communities respond to urban design challenges, and the Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT), which gives communities broad assessments of current practice and policy to put them on the path to sustainability.

Disaster Assistance

For more than 30 years, the AIA Disaster Assistance program has provided resources, tools, and support to architects helping communities to recover from disasters. The program also seeks to position architects as civic leaders vital to the development of disaster-response strategies in advance of an occurrence.

Honors and Awards

AIA Honors and Awards
Excellence in design
www.aia.org/practicing/awards

One of the most important AIA traditions is the recognition of the outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations. All architects can draw inspiration and insights from this broad range of exemplary activity. We publicize these achievements to demonstrate the valuable role that great architecture plays in our lives. The following list reflects the many ways the Institute recognizes achievement in design.
Since 2000, the AIA College of Fellows has sponsored the biennial Latrobe Prize, which awards $100,000 to a research project with the most potential to significantly advance the architecture profession.

Since 2007, the AIA Board Knowledge Committee, in conjunction with the College of Fellows, has run the Upjohn Research Initiative grant program, which provides funds for applied research that advances professional knowledge and practice.

AIA Research Initiatives
Commitments to collaborative knowledge sharing with the academy
www.aia.org/practicing/research
Through a variety of venues, the Institute periodically convenes leading academics and practitioners to share their views on architectural research, identify emerging research agendas, and explore ways to elevate the importance of research in the profession. Two research grant programs particularly support these aims.

AIA International Committee
Taking the global view
www.aia.org/practicing/groups
Committee members explore global issues affecting architecture practice and the many aspects of working beyond U.S. borders. They promote excellence in international practice; disseminate information about international markets, practice, and
design; develop international policy and trade expertise in order to advise AIA leaders; sponsor events and programs that facilitate and enhance members’ international practice; and foster relationships with architects abroad.

Public Awareness

How Design Works for You
Good design makes a difference.™
http://howdesignworks.aia.org

Someone who has never worked with an architect probably has questions: Do I really need an architect? What’s it like to work with an architect? Here, prospective clients can find answers and tools to guide them through the five stages of design and watch clients and AIA architects describe how the process worked for them.

AIA Blueprint for America
Celebrating the past, designing the future
www.aia150.org/bl150_default.php

The Blueprint for America, our primary AIA150 program, is a national community service initiative through which AIA members in more than 150 communities worked with citizens and community leaders to create a shared vision for a more livable future.

America’s Favorite Architecture
The Webby Award-winning site
www.favoritearchitecture.org

As part of the AIA’s 150th-anniversary celebration, Americans picked their favorite U.S. architecture projects. The AIA then created an interactive, Web-based exhibition of these 150 works—buildings, bridges, monuments, and memorials—representing some of the best of America’s architectural heritage.

The Shape of America
Continue the conversation about America’s Favorite Architecture
www.shapeofamerica.org

The Shape of America site presents a series of short films showcasing a selection of the 150 structures the public chose as America’s Favorite Architecture. In bringing these stories of great buildings alive, the site also increases public awareness of the value of good design and the importance of architects to our built environment. Best of all, The Shape of America lets you add your voice.

Architecture on Google Earth
An up-close-and-personal introduction to America’s architecture
www.aia150.org/bl_150_faq.php

The AIA Blueprint for America and America’s Favorite Architecture layers on Google Earth reach more than 200 million users in an interactive medium—reinforcing the message that architects and local citizens are part of a growing global effort to create a better quality of life in their communities.
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The AIA uses paper made from recycled materials to walk the walk toward a sustainable future. Visit http://info.aia.org/walkthewalk.